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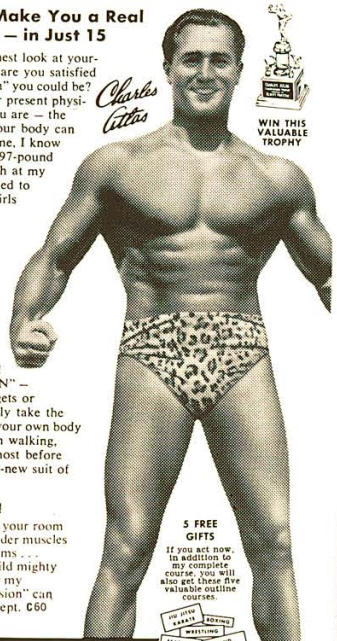
Let ME SHOW How I Can Make You a Real HE-MAN From Head to Toe — in Just 15 Minutes a Day! Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body — or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be? No matter how ashamed you are of your present physical condition — or how old or young you are — the "sleeping" muscles already present in your body can turn you into a real HE-MAN! Believe me, I know — because I was once a skinny, scrawny 97-pound half-alive weakling! People used to laugh at my build and make fun of me. I was ashamed to strip for sports or the beach . . . shy of girls . . . afraid of healthy competition.



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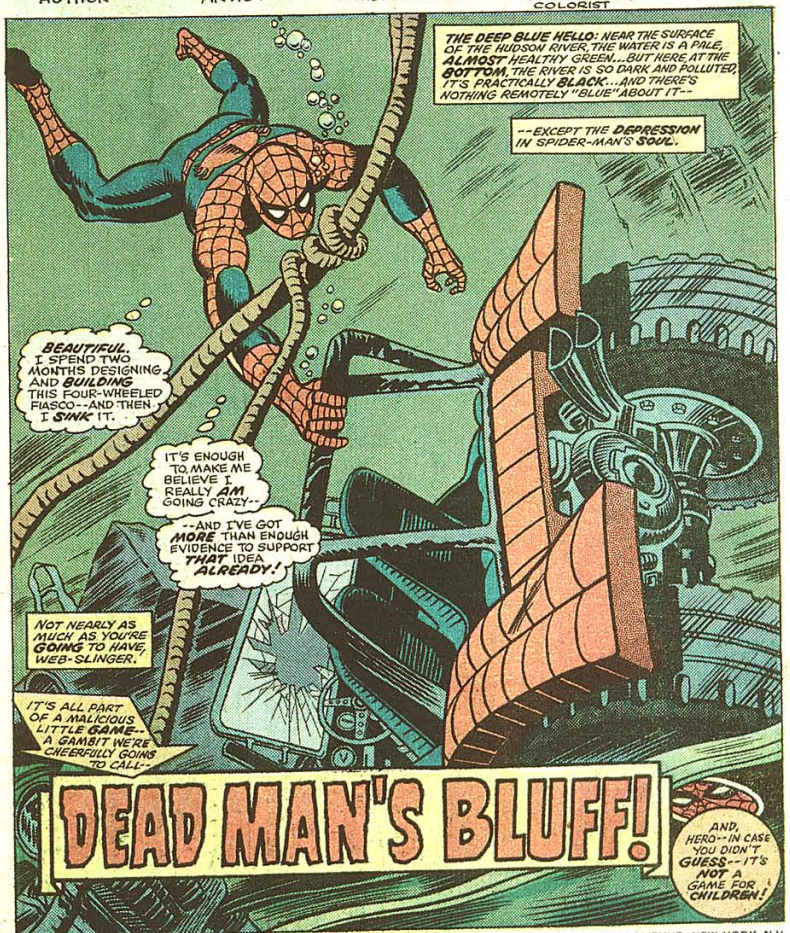

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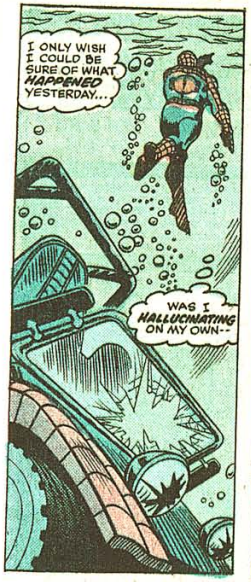

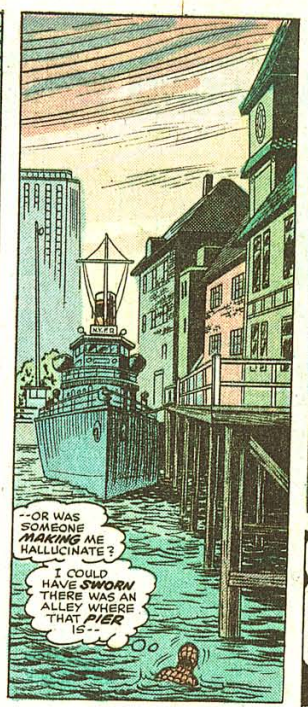

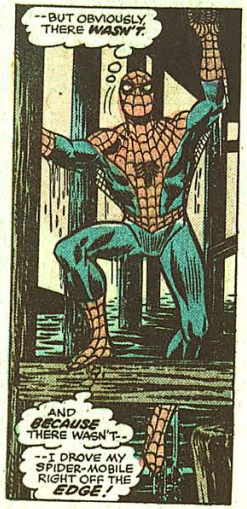

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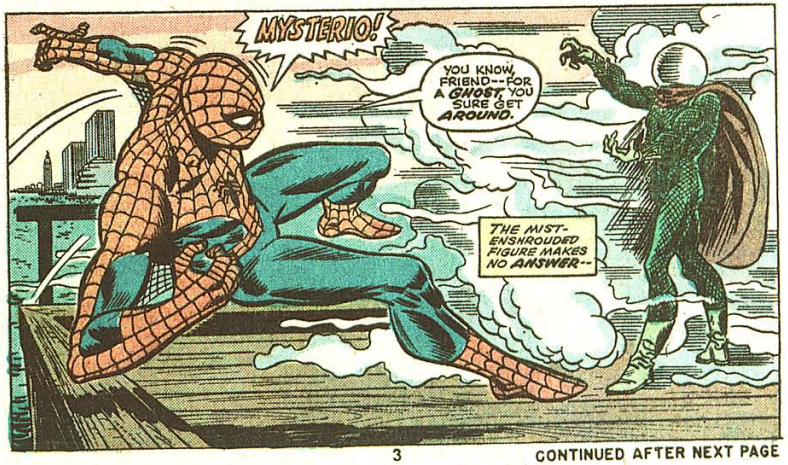

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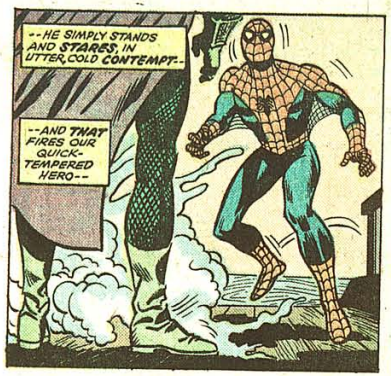

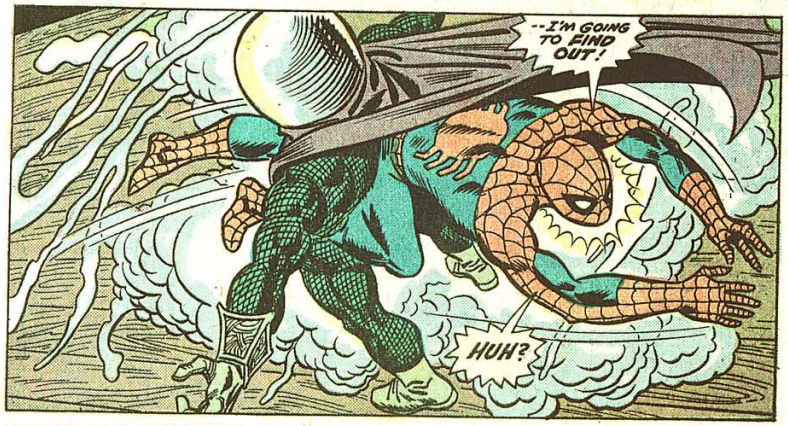

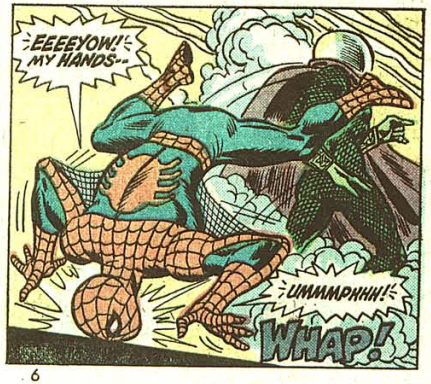

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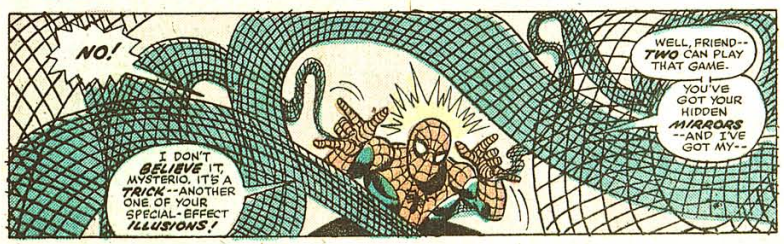

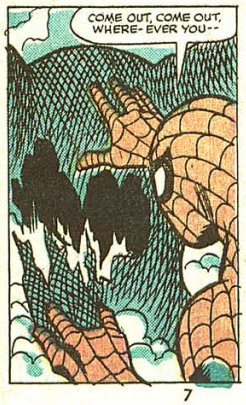

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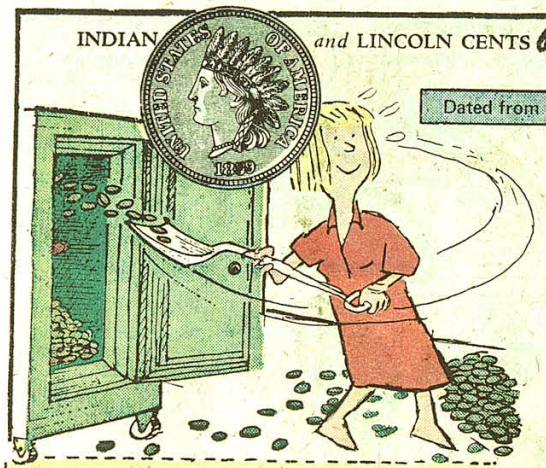
INDIAN and LINCOLN CENTS *by the Pound!*



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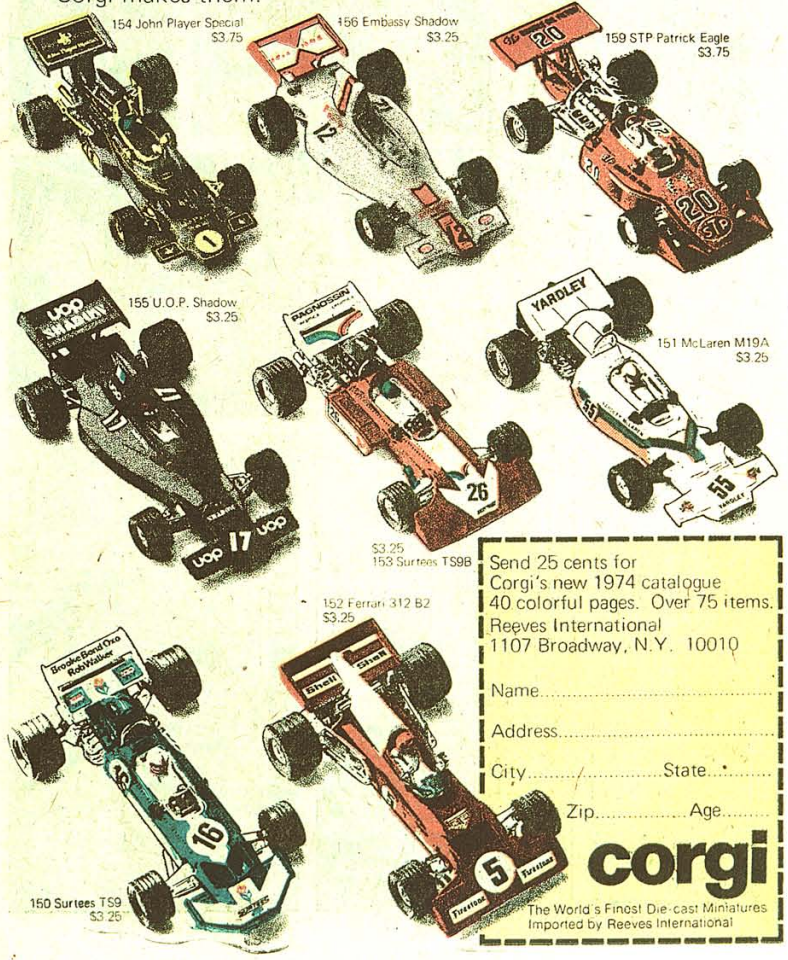

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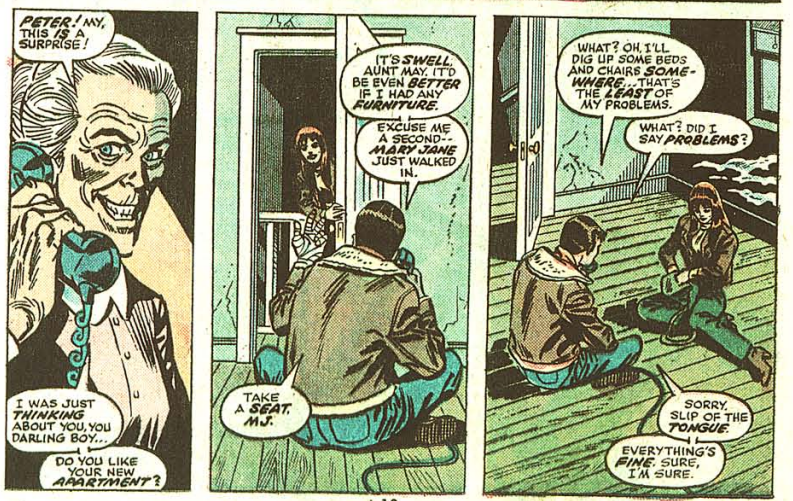

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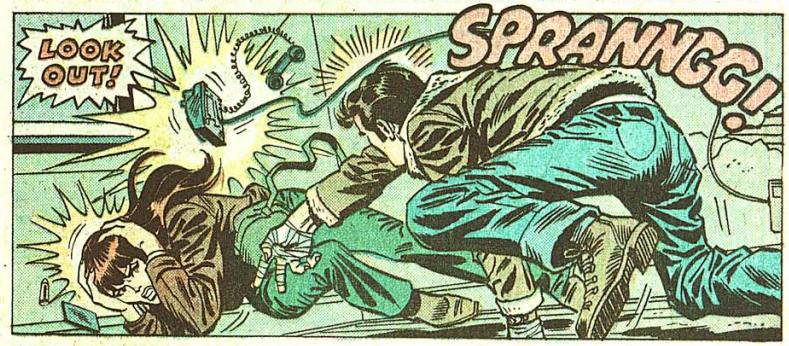

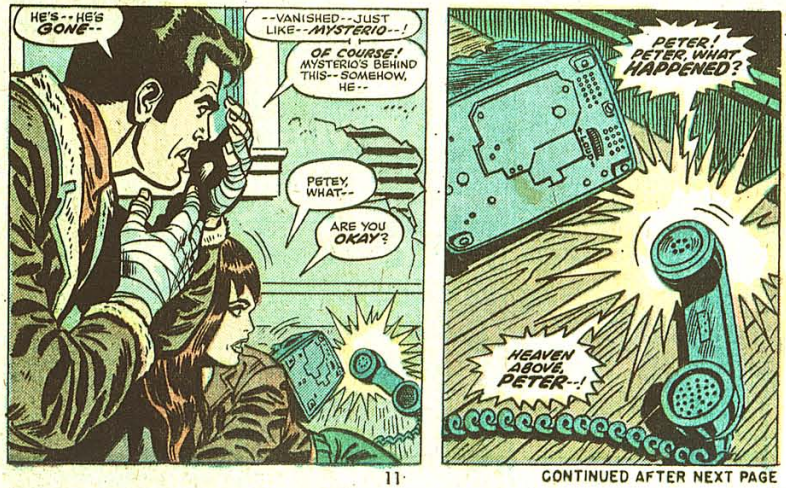

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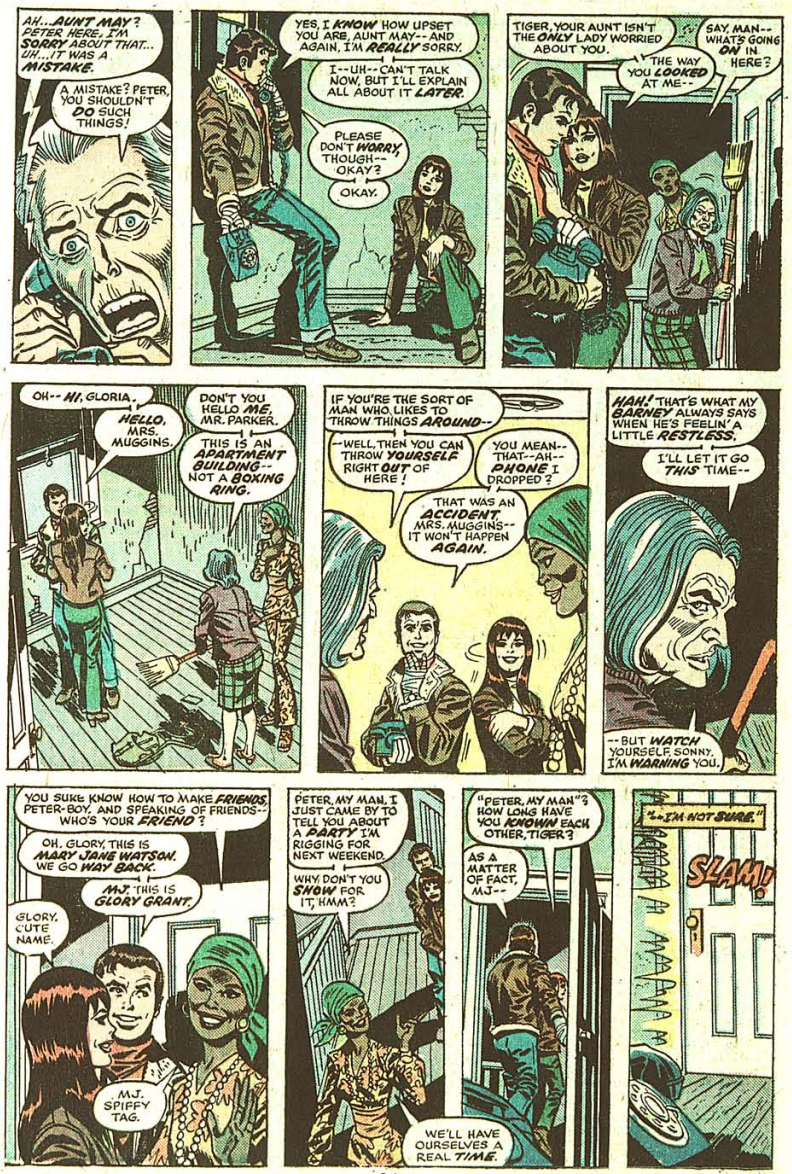

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THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 387 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

People:

This is a Gerry Conway fan letter. From a fan of Gerry Conway, naturally. He's certainly one heck of a writer!

His plots are superb. His characters are fascinating, to say the least. He's given us Green Goblin stories that rival Stan's masterpieces. He's given us the Punisher, Tarantula, Aunt May's wedding, Gwen's death (note one small snarl), battles with kangaroos, vultures, man-wolves, molten men, hammerheads, heroes for hire...you name it, he's given it to us! If there's one thing that guy has got, it's a fertile imagination.

And now, with his current crowning achievements in SPIDER-MAN and THOR, I'm finding it hard to believe he's only one man! How in the world is he going to top "Madness Means the Mindworm," or "Where Darkness Dwells, Dwell I"? At least in THOR he's left room to continue the story. Maybe you should retire him while he's on top, 'cause from here on it's got to be downhill all the way.

One word on the Jackal. These days, he could be anyone from Captain Stacy's unmentioned brother, to Flash! Kind of makes you wonder if YOU guys know who he is!

Stephan Friedt P.M.M.
Box 1131
Yakima, WA 98907

What? You mean that you think there's a question as to whether *we* know the Jackal's identity—is that what you mean? Are we capable of such things? Would we—could we—be that out of it? And further, would we stoop to asking those kinds of questions to avoid the entire issue?

Quite possibly.

As for Gerry, he was glowing like a 15,000 candlepower beacon, right up until he read that line about retiring while he's on top, cause where else can he go but down: and as soon as we soothed his hypertense attack of insecurity, he promptly began making extravagant claims about truly amazing and stun-boggling plans for Spidey...and frankly, after he told us all about them, we've gotta agree.

You ain't seen *nothin'* yet!

Dear Marvel:

Actually, anybody with any brains knows that the Jackal is really Gerry Conway, who has always been jealous of Peter Parker's powers. Don't be surprised if—upon receiving this letter—he leaps out of the window screaming, "You'll never take me alive!"

James L. Kegley
401½ Eighth Avenue S.E.
Aberdeen, SD 57401

Dear Marvel:

You seem to think that just because your comics contain brilliant stories and beautiful art work, you have conquered all the important aspects of a good comic. Not so. You have neglected the importance of a *good cover.*

The following is favored by an overwhelming majority of people I have interviewed:

1. The old Marvel style of box in the upper lefthand corner. This is a colorful asset to the cover and confines "Marvel Comics Group" where it will not distract from the pictorial design. This old style is favored by 100% of those interviewed.

2. Limit word balloons and rectangles to one, or at the most, two per cover. They are usually unnecessary. This idea is also a definite 100% favorite. After all, who buys a comic because, for example, on the cover the Hulk says, "He attacks again. But this time Monster will die!"?

3. Do not clutter up a cover with too many secondary objects. Focus 90% of your talents to major objects and your background becomes simple yet eye-catching.

4. You might also want to change some of the titles back to their old style of print. This particularly pertains to Spider Man because everyone likes the old, realistic webbing.

5. Finally, do not separate the title from the rest of the cover by using any sort of barrier or background color change.

The foregoing is an outline of my opinions and findings. If you don't believe me, ask the readers—then you will! I am begging you to take this seriously, for I truly believe it will improve your comics.

Philip J. Atteberry
1055 South Alameda Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

We appreciate your letter, Philip—sincerely. It's *always* to our benefit to know what Marveldom at large is thinking, and if this is truly a representative sampling of opinions, then perhaps it's time we re-thought our cover policy. Because you certainly *do* have some good points.

Now, we know that we may be getting a bit redundant, month after month, always asking for the opinions of our readers...but we think this is important, and hereby request *all* of you to write and tell us whether you agree or disagree or disagree with Mr. Atteberry.

After all, we may be doing the wrong thing without even knowing it, and it would certainly be ironic if many of you were buying our titles *in spite* of our covers, rather than *because* of them.

Do let us know.

Marvel,

Stan took the first step and had Peter graduate from high school, but he made the mistake of not taking the second step (having Peter graduate from college).

Neither Roy or Gerry took that second step either, because all three "felt the majority of our readers preferred to read about a college-age Spidey." I'd rather read about a Spidey who's like me and will eventually grow old and die. However, some of your characters—the immortal types—should not age, because they're immortal (simple).

Greg Cupp
RR #1, Box 300
Lead Hill, AK 72687

Dear Marvel,

Spider-man should stay in college: if he got any kind of job he would have to be fired, because he would always be missing.

Alf Meares
8600 N. West Lane Sp. 127
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Well, the opinions keep trucking in (by the *truckload*) on the subject of our boy Pete, and of whether or not he should be splitting from the college scene. Sure, there's a scattered "keep him in school forever" here and there (we've seen about three), but truth to tell, our original findings continue to be borne out—Marveldom Assembled wants life to go on for Mr. Parker, which definitely *includes* graduation from college. And for rising up to speak as if with one voice, we thank all of you, Spidey-cerely.

See ya next ish, Marvelites!

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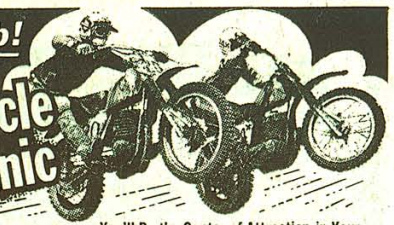

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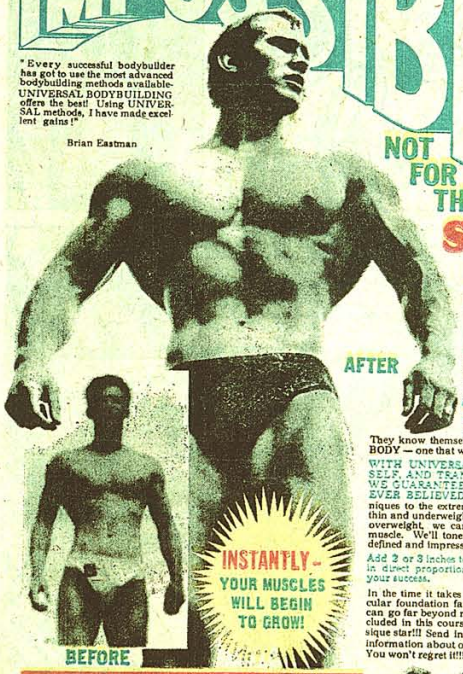

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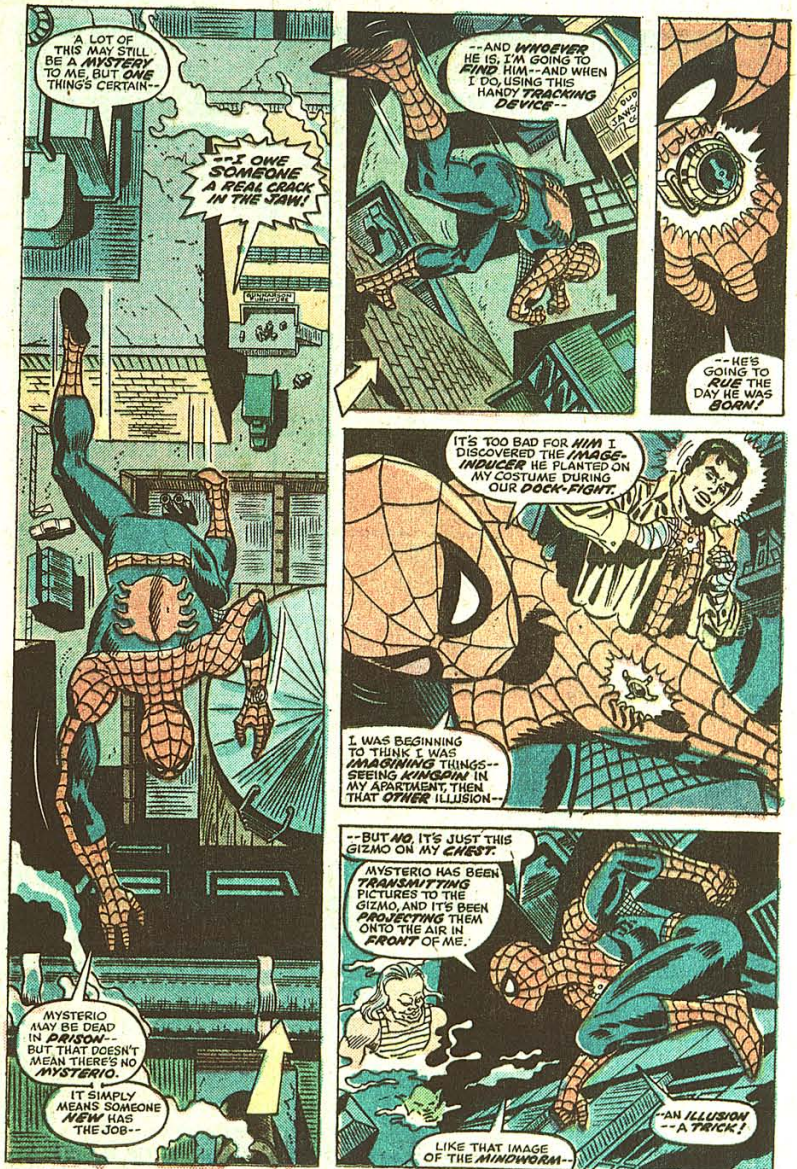

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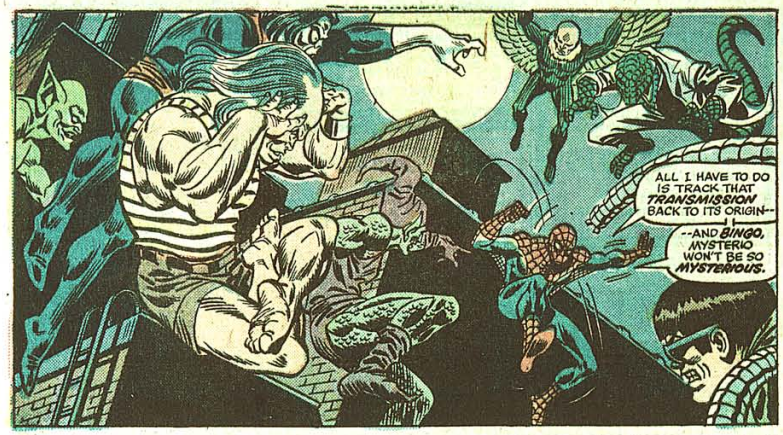

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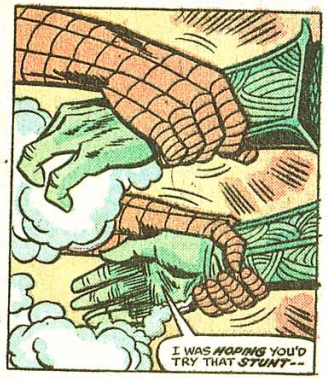

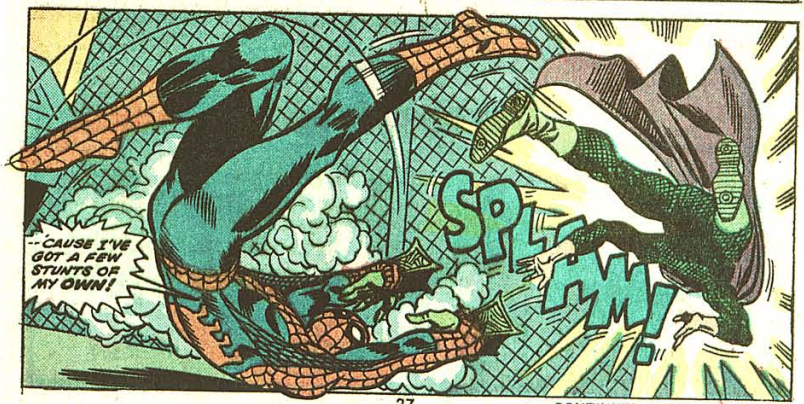

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MEMOS AND MEANDERINGS FROM YOUR MIGHTY MUDDLED MERRY-MAKERS!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Holiday Greetings, right from the heart
To our wondrous scripters
Who make writing an art.
To our painstaking pencillers
Breathing life to each tale
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Be they female or male.
To our editors, letterers,
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But heading the list
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So, greetings to YOU, chum
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Greetings as well to the fabulous folks at Children's Television Workshop who've helped us make comic-book history with the widely-acclaimed SPIDEY SUPER STORIES— and to the great guys and gals at Simon & Shuster who've made national best-sellers of our crazy and colorful MARVEL CALENDAR, as well as our sell-out sensation, the ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS! And, the Season's Best from all of us here in the Bullpen to our talented engravers, printers, distributors, and licensees— to all the True Believers everywhere who've truly made The Marvel Age of Comics an era of fun, and fantasy, and fellowship that will long outlast these fleeting words!

Excelsior!

Stan

Oops! Hold it! This is still starry-eyed Stan yakkin' on. I almost forgot to bring you up to date on the new, cataclysmic changes in our editorial line-up. Effective immediately, I'm proud to announce the appointment of Lively Len Wein as Executive Editor of mighty Marvel's greater-than-ever group of color comics! While with equal pride, I hereby acclaim Marvelous Marv Wolfman as Executive Editor of Marvel's sensational series of black-and-white story-panel magazines! And, even before our heads can stop reeling from this cataclysmic communique, let me add that Len and Marv will be assiduously assisted by their newly-appointed managing editors, Marvel's own Cheerful Chris Claremont and Dauntless Don McGregor! As for Roy "The Boy" Thomas, (remember when I first called you that, R.T.? Was it seven or eight years ago?), the Rascally One is now basking in the title of Editor Emeritus as he returns to his first love, scripting, wherein he plans to produce more majestic masterworks than ever for Marveldom Assembled! And now, take it away, Lively Len, and the rest of the batty Bullpen —

ITEM! As if Smilin' Stan's loquacious comments above haven't confused you enough already, let us be the first to add that Len and Chris and Marv and Don will be bravely backed up by yet another two stalwarts; Sparkling SCOTT EDELMAN, former Associate Editor on our ever-burgeoning line of block-bustin' British weeklies, has shambled several doors over to become the latest— easily the LARGEST—Assistant Editor our cavortin' color comics line has ever seen, while DAVE (The Dude) KRAFT has assumed the title, not to mention the diligent duties, of Articles Editor for our bombastic black-and-white magazines. Welcome aboard the mighty Marvel ark, illustrious ones— and know ye that your efforts on behalf of Marveldom Assembled shall be applauded by all. (Now if we could only figure out some way to PAY you guys something every once in a while...)

ITEM! If you think you need a score-card to keep track of your batty Bullpen's moves around the office, you need a whole blamed *computer* to keep tabs on their various movings about in the wondrous world outside during the past few months. To wit: the aforementioned Dauntless DON McGREGOR packed up his stunning wife SANDY, their durable daughter LAUREN, not to mention the world's largest collection of Robert Culp publicity stills, and trucked from the wilds of the Bronx into the heart of darkest Queens (just a very few blocks away from a certain malevolent couple named WOLFMAN, and a gentleman dude called KRAFT). Meanwhile, STEVE (Baby) GERBER carried himself and his belongings from the mythical borough of Brooklyn right into shadow-strewn mid-town Manhattan (brave man, that GERBER), while still finding time to turn out a frankly-informative article on comics as a visual story-telling medium for the film-focused magazine SUPER-8 FILM-MAKER. Back on the moving scene, Dynamic DAVE COCKRUM and family moved *across* over-crowded Queens; Iridescent IRENE VARTANOFF trekked across beleaguered Brooklyn; and in what must rank as one of the shortest moves on record, Merry GERRY and Cavortin' CARLA CONWAY (the hottest new writing team since Astaire and Rogers—that's Ginger, not Steve) shlepped their twin typewriters and their pandemonious paperback collection a whole *ten blocks* from their former digs. Let's hear it for braving new frontiers, folks. If we had room, we might also be tempted to mention that RICH (Swash) BUCKLER gathered wife, son, and drawing board, and journeyed back to his native Detroit, while Dapper DAN ADKINS pulled up stakes and fled East Liverpool, Ohio for the fresh air and cactus of Arizona. But we don't have room so we won't.

ITEM! Looks like it's cataclysmic clarification time again, Pilgrims. Seems your beleaguered Bullpen has been bombarded lately by letters wondering *why* one or two of our mildly magnificent color mags haven't carried the mighty MARVEL VALUE STAMPS we've been telling you so much about, so now's as good a time as any to set the record straight. If you're eagerly looking for our vital VALUE STAMPS each and every month (and if you're not, you don't know the adventure you're missing), you'll find 'em on the liltin' *letters pages* of any and all of our mags that *have* letters pages. The reasons behind excluding the MVS's from non-letters paged mags is far too complicated to go into here, but trust us when we say it's a condition we just can't avoid right now. In the meantime, keep your eagle eyes peeled for the startling *second series* of VALUE STAMPS coming to you soon. Believe us, if ya thought the first series was enough to knock you out of your proverbial tree, the *second* set'll floor you.

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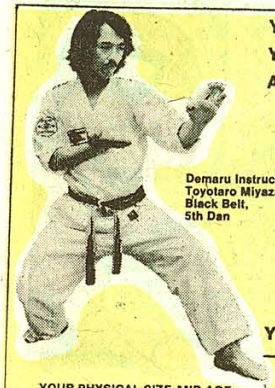

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If aften ten days of examining this home study course, you are not completely satisfied that this is the easiest, most effective way possible to learn self defense, KUNG FU and KARATE at home, you may return it for a full refund of your purchase price.

USE THIS RUSH COUPON TO ORDER:

Yes, this is for me. Rush me your complete audiovisual home study course in dynamic KUNG FU & KARATE. I enclose $4.98 plus 50¢ for postage and handling (totaling $5.48) as payment in full. I understand that this course was designed to teach me how to use KUNG FU & KARATE to defend myself. I promise never to use these techniques as an aggressor. Send cash, check or money order to:

Demaru, Inc., Dept. MC4
667 Madison Ave.,
New York, N.Y. 10021

Name.....

Street.....

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State.....Zip.....

New York residents please include appropriate sales tax. Residents of England please send £3. Sorry no COD's.

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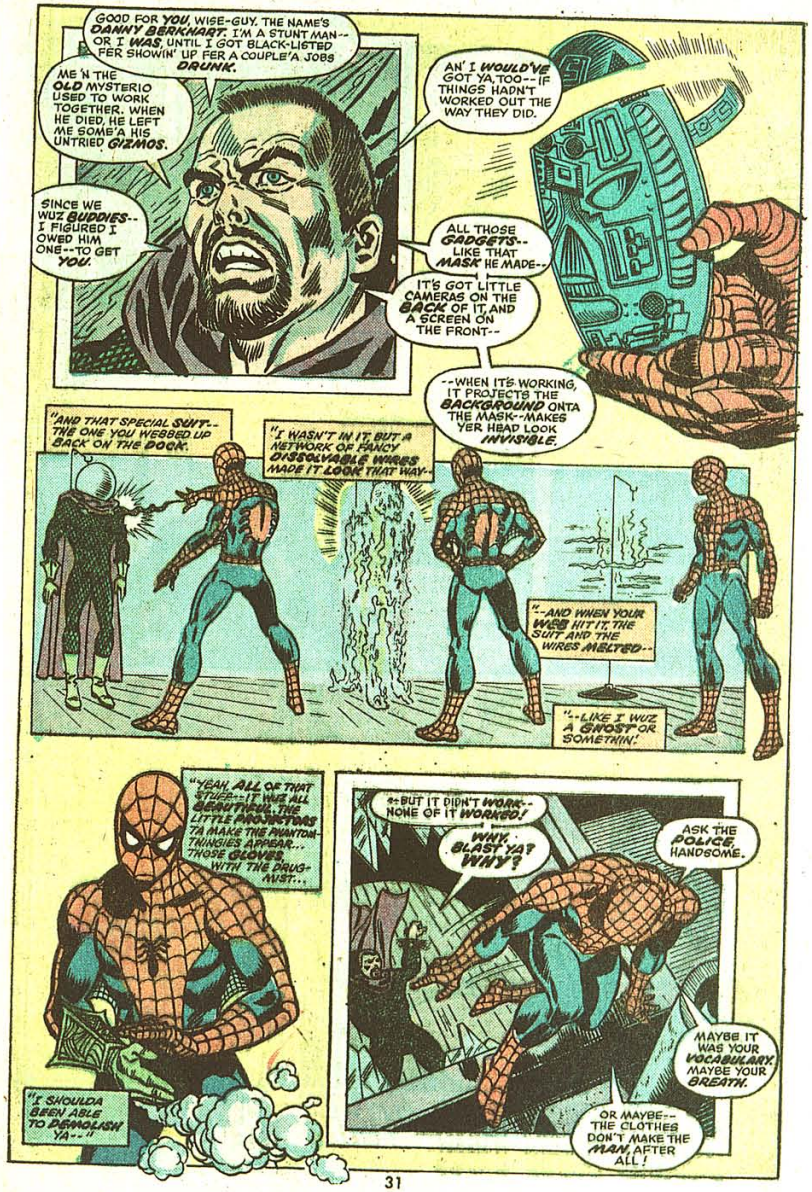

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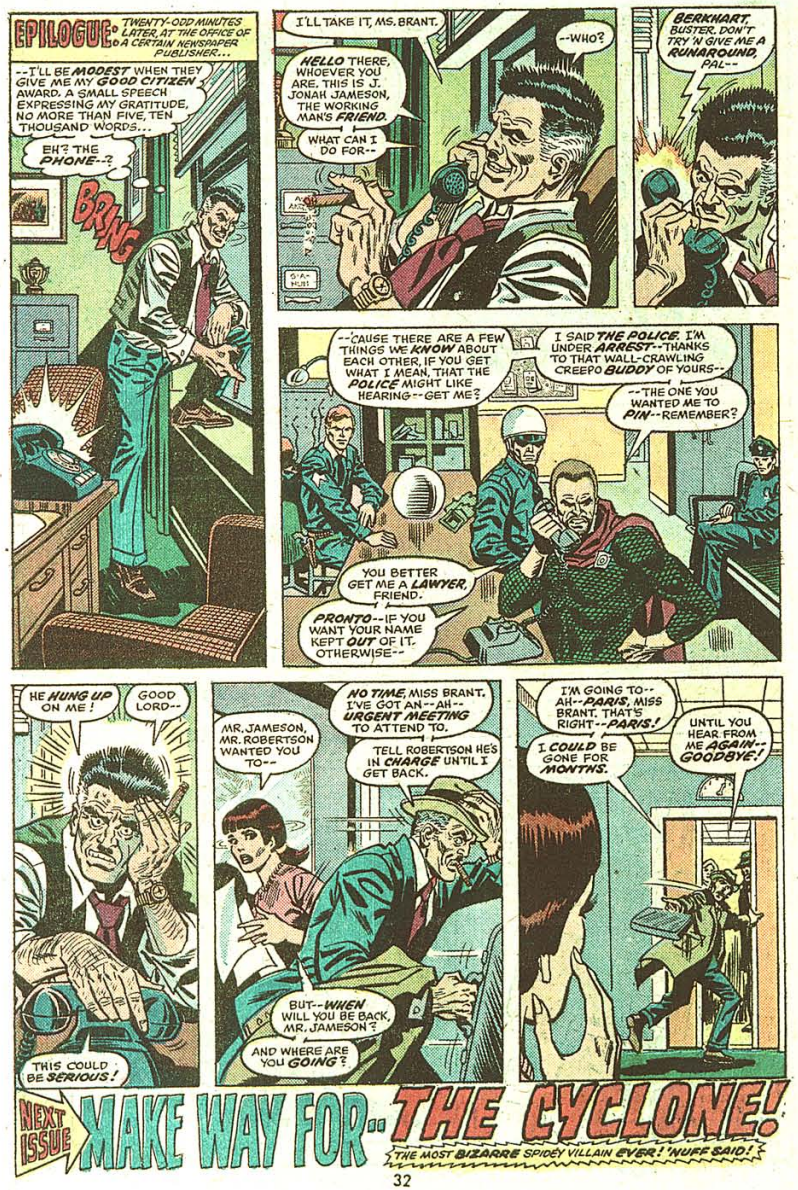

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It has helped to start many men and women on the road to greater accomplishment

Just looking at it won't get you anything... but mailing it could lead to a more rewarding future!

The LaSalle coupon is one of the most often-seen coupons in America. To many of those who have already mailed it, it has proved a first step to opportunity.

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MAIL THIS HANDY POSTAGE-PAID COUPON-ENVELOPE

Cut coupon along dotted lines, fill in your name and address . . . fold, seal (tape, paste or staple) and mail. No stamp or envelope is necessary.

Please rush me, with out obligation, FREE booklet on the opportunity I have checked:

- ACCOUNTING: ☐ Complete Accounting ☐ CPA Training
- BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: ☐ Management Training
- REAL ESTATE: ☐ Complete Training
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- SECRETARIAL: ☐ Complete Training
- INTERIOR DECORATING: ☐ Complete Training
- COMPUTER PROGRAMMING: ☐ Basic Training
- LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION: ☐ French ☐ Spanish
- MUSIC INSTRUCTION: ☐ Piano ☐ Guitar ☐ Spinet Organ
- DRAFTING: ☐ Complete Training
- ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN: ☐ Technician Training
- STENOTYPE: ☐ Machine Shorthand
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- ART TRAINING: ☐ Complete Training
- DENTAL OFFICE ASSISTANT: ☐ Complete Training
- AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICS: ☐ Service & Repair
- EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT: ☐ Law for Executive Leadership ☐ Law for Police Officers. No state accepts any law home study course, including LaSalle's, as sufficient education to qualify for admission to practice law.
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- HIGH SCHOOL: ☐ Diploma Program

Dept. 62-036

Mr.
Mrs.
Miss (Circle title and please print) Age.....

Address..... Apt. No.....

City & State..... Zip.....

46D FOLD HERE ↓ (DO NOT CUT) SEAL AND MAIL TODAY – NO STAMP NEEDED. 15

Cut Along Dotted Line — Seal (Tape, Paste or Staple) and Mail Today.

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